

**Year A; Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for May 21, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Acts 1:6-14
- Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 68*)

One: Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

**All: Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds —**

One: his name is the LORD — be exultant before him.

**All: Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.**

One: God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,

**All: but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

One: O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

**All: the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

One: He sent rain in abundance, he restored his heritage when it languished;

**All: his flock found a dwelling in it; in his goodness, he provided for the needy.**

One: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,

**All: O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

One: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

**All: Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.**

One: Blessed be God!

**All: Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (alternate, *from Psalm 68*)

One: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,

**All: O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

One: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

**All:     Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.**

**One:    Blessed be God!**

**All:     Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from 1 Peter 5*)

Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith. Let us resist the devil in confessing where we have sinned against God and neighbor. Let us pray.

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*30 seconds*)

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Acts 1*)

**Almighty God, giver of strength, too often we, like the disciples, look up to heaven anxious for your return to make all things right and to judge the world. We forget that you have appointed each of us to further the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. Grant us the fortitude and initiative to recognize where you are already working and to work with you to bring justice to this world and to make your name known. Forgive our lack of participation in this work, and recognize our repentance. In the name of the one who modeled that work and calls us to that work, our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from John 17*)

Jesus prayed to the Father recognizing that the Father had given the Son authority over all people, to give eternal life to all those the Father had given him. It is this gift of eternal life along with forgiveness that Jesus won through the cross. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

**All:     Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*from Acts 1*)

**Alpha and Omega, you are without question the beginning and the end. You existed before the creation of the world, and you will remain eternally. As we remember the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remember it with thanks. Thank you for taking our Lord up into heaven that he may rule the heavens and the earth. Thank you that he, also, demonstrates to us your promises to us — that one day we will, also, be resurrected from the dead and live for eternity in the Kingdom of God. In response to all you have given to us, we commit our offerings and our gifts to the work of the church as called by our Lord Jesus Christ. Guide our church leaders to invest it as you intend. In the name of the one ascended to be with you, Father. Amen.**

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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